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Report on the Pig Multi Stakeholder Platforms in Uganda

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**Introduction**:

Pig production in Uganda is undoubtedly on the rise; over 1.1 million households in Uganda, predominantly at smallholder level, engage in pig husbandry. At over 3.4 kg per person per year, Uganda’s per capita pork consumption is the greater than her neighbours’ in the East African region and among the highest in Africa. Despite these statistics many production, marketing and institutional challenges afflict the pig sub sector.

In 2013, Multi Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs) were identified at the pig value chain impact pathway workshop by ILRI and various stakeholders in the pig sub sector as one of the catalysts for innovations to generate solutions to the aforementioned constraints. The first phase of the MSP was facilitated by SNV and covered three regions (Greater Masaka, Central and Eastern) and involved two sets of meetings in each of the districts of Masaka, Mukono and Kamuli, which were the initial project sites under the IFAD-EC funded Smallholder Pig Value Chain Development Project, titled, “Catalyzing emerging smallholder pig value chains in Uganda to increase rural incomes and assets”.

The first set of meetings held in August 2014 aimed to identify priority constraints (see Table 1 below) and develop intervening action plans; progress in implementing these was evaluated in the second set of meetings in November 2014. Additionally, A national multi-stakeholder platform meeting in Kampala on 2 September 2014 reviewed the constraints prioritized at the regional level meetings described above and appointed a nine-member interim committee to oversee the MSP processes at the national level.

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| Region | Constraints | Way forward | Timeline |
| Eastern | 1. Poor quality feeds 2. Diseases ASF 3. Lack of water for piggery production | - Identify progressive pig farmers per Sub County.  - Organize pig farmers for peer learning visits | 30th /09/2014  15th /10/2014 |
| Greater Masaka | 1. Poor quality feeds 2. Farmers do not get the right price for their pigs 3. Diseases( including African swine Fever) | - Form pig farmers’ associations  - Convene a pig feed dialogue meeting to discuss minimum standards  - Educate farmers to make own feeds and to grow highly digestible forages  - Use grown crops rather than commercial feeds  - Set up a farmer shop selling quality animal feeds  - Collective purchase of alternative feeds (brewers waste) | 30/10/2014 |
| Central | 1. Poor quality feed 2. Diseases (including ASF) 3. Genetic decline of pigs | - Map feed actors in central region  - Map farm based feed centers  - Farm- based learning Visits |  |

Table 1: Constraints prioritized by region and corresponding action plans

In the second phase of the MSPs, two new regional MSPs were initiated in the northern and Western region following the roll out of the Irish Aid funded MorePORK project in Lira and Hoima districts respectively. In addition, follow up meetings were held for the pilot regional MSPs in the central, greater masaka and eastern regions as per the summary updates below;

**Northern Region – Lira:**

The first ever northern regional MSP was held on 21 July 2015 in Lira District. A total of 47 stakeholders attended and these comprised pig farmers, input suppliers and extension service providers, Pork and live pig traders, financial service providers from Lira, Oyam and Aleptong districts. In addition, officials from Agricultural/Vocation training Institutes, Non-government organisations such as BRAC, Village Enterprise, ADINA Foundation, AVSI and War Child Holland.

The pig MSP was christened ‘Wii-otem me punu”, a Luo name that loosely translates to ‘a meeting about the pig’ and sought to engage actors and stakeholders through dialogues and collective action aimed at addressing challenges and harnessing opportunities along the Pig value chain for optimal benefits to the population in the Northern Region of Uganda.

The MSP had the following key objectives:-

1. To mobilize collective action of the stakeholders to address major challenges in the Pig value chain in the Northern Region.
2. To develop and strengthen business linkages between actors in the Pig sector.
3. To raise visibility of the Pig value chain through engagements with relevant stakeholders including policy makers in the region.

A participatory visioning exercise was conducted, where participants discussed the various aspirations for the MSP for the next 3 to 5 years, key among these were;

1. A functional MSP
2. Effective control mechanisms for pig diseases and parasites
3. Better access to competitive market, appropriate credit services and high quality inputs
4. Centralized slaughtering Facilities
5. Pig cooperative societies formed
6. Processing plant for pig products in place

For these to be achieved however, the meeting identified a few priority constraints that need to be redressed including (by rank); i) Pig diseases especially African swine Fever, ii) Inadequate knowledge in pig husbandry and management practices, iii) Limited collaboration among pig value chain actors, iv) Inadequate knowledge to formulate, preserve and store pig feeds and v) Poor pig breeds.

*Way forward:*

Collectively, the participants identified achievable, yet cost-effective short-term strategies to address the constraints above and taskforces were appointed to lead the implementation of the action plans listed below;

1. Use mass media approach to sensitize farmers on pig disease especially African swine fever and parasite management through radio talk-show
2. Collaborate with local authorities to enforce laws against stray pigs
3. Mobilize traders to dispose non consumable pig part safely
4. Report cases of outbreak of African swine fever to local authorities and relevant departments.

The Progress of implementation of each action plan will be evaluated in the second MSP meeting scheduled for 10th November 2015.

**Western region – Hoima**

The inaugural meeting of the regional Multi Stakeholder Platform for Western Uganda was held in Hoima district on 28th July 2015 and was attended by 72 participants representing pig farmers, Hoima district local government, District Veterinary Officers (from Hoima, Kyankwanzi, Kibaale, Masindi and Bullisa districts), Hoima pig cooperative, breeders, butchers, hotels, transporters, feed and drug stockists, extension workers NGOs, CBOs, and Bulindi Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute (BUZARDI).

The main objectives of the platform were to

1. To collectively identify and address pressing constraints in the pig sector
2. To Develop and strengthen Business linkages between actors in the pig sector (networking)
3. To Enhance the Visibility of the pig industry in western region

During the session on practical visioning, the participants agreed on aspirations for the regional MSP that they hope would come to fruition in the next 3 to 5 years. These mainly were;

1. Formation of pig cooperatives.
2. Modern processing facilities for value addition including a standard abattoir.
3. Availability of commercially viable breeds.
4. Accessible, affordable high quality feeds.
5. Appropriate technical extension services with emphasis on feeds and disease control mechanisms.
6. Commercial pig farming - more than five pigs per household
7. Proper and organized marketing channels
8. Appropriate piggery credit facilities from banks and micro finance institutions.

It was further agreed that for these to be achieved, the constraints below needed to be addressed;

1. Low prices offered by buyers
2. Poor markets and marketing practices
3. Poor quality and quantity feeds

The platform resolved to solve problems gradually by handling one issue at a time. As a workable solution to the low pig prices, consensus was reached to use collective marketing through cooperatives for better bargaining power and market information. It was also identified as pertinent; to lower the cost of production by using locally feed resources. Proper pig husbandry practices like book keeping, breed improvement were encouraged in order to increase productivity at farm level so that buyers can buy in bulk from a centralised market. It was further resolved that partnerships be initiated with different stakeholders in the pig value chain.

*Way Forward*

The platform identified six persons to lead the different taskforces (see Table 2 below) that will push for the different strategies identified for their implementation. The leaders will nurture the stakeholders in their different taskforces on how to use the different strategies laid to solve the problem of low pig prices. The outcomes from the different taskforces will feed in the national platform due august 2015 which will be attended by representatives from western region.

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| **Strategy** | **Responsible** | **Contact** |
| Strategic partnerships | Tusiime John | 0772360125 |
| Improved pig breeds | Ntume Grace | 0772886498 |
| Increase productivity for easy marketing | Kyaligonza Moses | 0782149896 |
| Group marketing through cooperatives | Muheesi Peter | 0781173314 |
| Lowering cost of production | Nsamba Yoram | 0752580946 |
| Record keeping for cost benefit analysis | Kasaija Paul | 0772327551 |

Table 2: Taskforces for the Western region MSP

**Eastern region – Kamuli**

The third meeting of the eastern regional MSP was held on 7th July 2015 at Kyemba Gardens Hotel in Kamuli and was attended by 53 participants that included pig producers, extension service providers, local government officials, drug and feed stockists, butchers and traders.

The meeting reviewed progress made on the MSP activity plan drawn in 2014 and also sought to share recent happenings in the pig sub-sector in this region.

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| Action | Progress | Challenges | Way forward |
| Identify progressive pig farmers per Sub County and organize pig farmers learning visits for peer learning | Farmers mobilized, trained and shared experiences in Bugulumbya and Kitayunjwa | Logistical challenges to reach many farmers from the different sub counties.  The MSP leadership is yet to be effective and these is need for capacity building |  |

Among the other updates from this region;

* Pork traders have formed an association that will enforce ethical practices and standards among pork traders
* District bylaws are in place that now compel traders to have pigs slaughtered at a central place, this enhances quality assurance through better pork handling– This emerged out of the MSP discussions.
* The number of pig traders has increased as there is increased demand for pork. The cost per kilogram increased from Ush. 5000 to 7000
* Farmers are keeping improved breeds
* Government is getting revenue from the central slaughter in Namwendwa
* Kamuli government is planning to set up infrastructure for an abattoir

Challenges still abound in this regional MSP. For instance the leadership is not strong and self-reliant- they still are depending on a third party for funding and direction. There is need for capacity building of the leadership to better understand and fulfil their roles and responsibilities without waiting for the NGO, ILRI, Local government to drive them (for sustainability)

**Central region – Mukono**

A third regional MSP meeting for the central region was held at the Mukono Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MUZARDI) on 9th July 2015 and was attended by 20 participants representing pig farmers, drug and feed stockists, a pork processor and extension service providers. The meeting reviewed progress of the action plans drawn in last quarter of 2014 and it was revealed that the following action was taken;

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| Action | Progress | Challenges |
| Map feed actors in central region | A few feed suppliers identified as one of the strategies to help stakeholders to overcome the problem of poor feeds | Central region covers 5 districts hence the team faced logistical challenges in traversing them |
| Map farm based feed centers | Initiated |  |
| Farm- based learning Visits | A farm visit was held on 19th/12/2014 at Markmap farm in Wakiso with 17 farmers participating. | Logistical challenges faced in transporting farmers from other districts |

The MSP in this region is still plagued by several challenges. For instance, mobilization of participants across the value chain is still weak. The participants are mainly pig producers ad a few extension / advisory service providers. There is an opportunity for capacity building of the leadership to be able to engage other value chain actors.

**Greater Masaka region**

The third regional MSP meeting for the greater masaka region was held on 14th July 2015. This meeting aimed at reviewing the progress made for the 2014 MSP action plan as well as initiate dialogue on possible strategies for attaining sustainability of the MSP in this region. The meeting was attended by 47 participants who represented pig producers, pork and live pig traders, feed and drug stockists, Microfinance Institutions, advisory service providers and officials from the district local government key of which was the Masaka District Local government Chairman, Joseph Kalungi who pledged to logistically support the Union’s executive committee during their mobilization drives.

The meeting received updates on key pig sector events within the region that included an agricultural exhibition in which pig farmers from the Greater Masaka pig cooperatives union participated and networked with a delegation of investors from China. The chairperson of the MSP also informed the meeting of the increase in demand for inclusion in the activities of the MSP through phone calls made to him and his peers. The meeting was also informed of an outbreak of the African swine fever disease in parts of Kabonera sub-county and on-going efforts by ILRI to mitigate its spread through the trainings on biosecurity measures against ASF that were being rolled out in the district.

The meeting was also informed that ILRI had supported the union to hire tow consultants that designed a business plan for the centralised slaughter house at the municipality and a pig business hub in Kabonera sub-county. The Union was urged to step up its fund- mobilisation efforts to expedite construction of the abattoir and the farmers were encouraged to contribute towards this investment to earn a stake in it.

The Union has also lobbied to have the abattoir included in the municipal work plan and they expect to access some funding- The Masaka district planner informed the DVO that they have allocated some funds for the abattoir in the budget (Municipality is access funds from the World Bank)

At the meeting, an official from BRAC informed the MSP of the availability of credit finance for Poultry and livestock enterprises as well as SMEs. In a related development, the head of the Masaka Microfinance Company informed the meeting of their largely agricultural loan portfolio and urged the pig union to approach his organisation for credit finance.

A review of the action plan drafted in 2014 revealed the following;

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| Action | Progress | Challenge | Way forward |
| Form a pig farmers associations | 15 pig cooperatives registered in the greater masaka region and are now affiliated to the Pig farmers Cooperative Union | Mobilisation of funds for the Unions activities impeded by absence of a bank account and unpaid memberships by the cooperatives  Logistical challenges have restricted the Unions geographical reach. | Opening of the Union’s bank account is in the advance stages. |
| Collective purchase of alternative feeds (brewers waste) | Three farmer cooperatives (Kabonera –Kyanamukaaka, Kibinge and Mukungwe) have initiated collective purchase of brewers waste. 30 tonnes in total have been purchased so far and more orders have been placed. | High demand pf the brewers waste at the factory has made its supply irregular | The farmer groups need to be supported with direct linkages to the factories so they can place orders early enough. |
| - Convene a pig feed dialogue meeting to discuss on minimum standards | Not done yet |  | Activity postponed to next month |
| - Educate farmers to make own feeds and to grow highly digestible forages | Farmers were trained by ILRI on formulation of feeds using locally available feed resources |  | Need to scale out technology to benefit more farmers |
| - Use grown crops rather than commercial feeds | Sweet potato vines have been adopted as pig feed.  Over 60 farmers were trained on planting 5 forage species for pig feeds | Harsh weather destroyed many of the forage gardens | Need to scale out technology to benefit more farmers |
| Set up a farmer shop with quality animal feeds | Not done | Lack of financial resources | To be achieved when Union has mobilized enough resources |

**National MSP – Kampala**

The National MSP is the overall coordinating body of the pig MSP processes in Uganda. It is mandated to discuss the salient policy issues identified at the regional level and chart a way-forward for the resolution of these issues. It comprises a 7 person steering committee and representatives of the regional MSPs and is attended by representatives of the different value chain actors and pig sub-sector stakeholders from all over the country.

The third national MSP was held on 18th August 2015 at the SNV offices in Kampala and was attended by 30 participants who included representatives of the five regional MSPs, District veterinary departments of the five districts where ILRI project sites are located, officials from the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives (MTIC), NGOS like BRAC Uganda, pork processors, feed and drug manufacturers as well as extension service providers. Daniel Iga, Project Manager at Irish Aid was also part of this meeting.

The key objectives of this meeting were;

* 1. To unify understanding of the Government of Uganda Feed Policy development process and the disease surveillance mechanisms among pig sector actors
  2. To accelerate movement towards the development of pig cooperative societies and unions in the country
  3. To develop and strengthen business linkages between actors in the Pig sector
  4. To raise visibility of the Pig value chain through engagements with relevant stakeholders including  policy makers in the region.

*Updates on progress made*

Having identified poor quality of commercial feed as an overarching issue raised by pig farmers across the regions, the National MSP sought to influence policy / the regulatory framework regarding commercial pig feeds quality. So far the achievement has been to meet with the Minister of Agriculture Animal Industries and Fisheries to submit input on the proposed revision of the Feeds Bill. The Minister delegated a team to work with the National MSP representative to move this agenda. A team from the ministry is set to go around the country to collect views from stakeholders in order to strengthen the current draft bill. Dr. Moses Mwanja, an official from MAAIF further urged the MSP to augment their voice to express the urgency of this bill.

The meeting was informed that ILRI was undertaking a study on ASF control by use of biosecurity measures at farm level to minimize the risk of transmission of the disease in Masaka and Lira districts. Furthermore, it was mentioned that the government has put in place a unit in the Uganda Police to assist in enforcement of quarantines and regulation of animal movement.

MAAIF has created a new directorate of extension that is expected to restructure extension service provision across the country so as to become more efficient and responsive to farmer needs.

The farmers present called on government to consider a compensation scheme for livestock loss as a result of epidemics or disease out breaks like ASF.

Presentations by input and output market players;

1. Fresh cuts: One of the few pork processors in Uganda, has plans to expand its production unit to increase the scale of its pork processing line. Additionally, they have started paying premium price for quality pork by grading the pork sourced from pig farmers.
2. Mutima feeds Company Ltd and Natural Feeds Ltd also made brief presentations on their products, specific packages for pig producers and how they can be accessed.

A presentation on registration of producer cooperatives and Unions was made by the District Commercial Officer of Masaka, on behalf of MTIC, in which he highlighted the relevance of collective action through farmer groups to advance policy lobby as well as embrace market opportunities.

*Way Forward*

It was agreed that participants ought to utilize the MSP as a vehicle for policy lobby and advocacy. It was further recommended that a follow up meeting be held with MAAIF and MTIC.

**Conclusion:**

The MSP processes in Uganda seem to have made considerable progress since the inception in August 2014. Alliances have been created between various private and public actors in the different regions. A total of 774 pig value chain actors have so far participated in the MSPs at regional and national levels.

In Masaka, pig cooperatives have been legally registered and they are on the path to forming a pig producers’ Union. In Kamuli, a pig trader cooperative has been formed and regulations on centralised slaughter of pigs enforced while in Mukono, farmer learning visits have been carried out. Overall, the national MSP has engaged the policy makers to reconsider incorporation of pig feed standards within the yet to be revised national feed bill.

Despite this progress, the MSPs still face capacity and logistical challenges that will enable them carry on activities without the support or facilitation of Research and /or development partners like ILRI. It is left to be seen how much progress shall be recorded at the next set of meeting s later this year.